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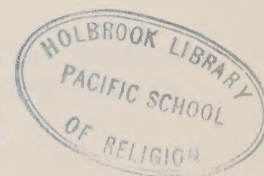
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the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL  
the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES  
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION  
the WORLD COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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Fifteenth Year

July 30, 1948

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## World Christian Youth Commission Established

Thirty representatives from five international Christian youth organisations, meeting from July 12 - 21, drafted a constitution for a World Christian Youth Commission, thus establishing for the first time in history a permanent organ of cooperation among these movements in their efforts to reach the youth of the world with the Christian message.

Meeting at Versoix near Geneva the delegates established the Commission, made recommendations to their organisations for further collaboration, and asked the five bodies (World Council of Churches, World's Alliance of YMCA's, World's YWCA, World's Student Christian Federation, World Council of Christian Education) to consider the holding of another World Conference of Christian Youth in the summer of 1952 somewhere in Asia. After consultation with the parent-bodies a decision will be taken at the 1949 meeting of the Youth Commission.

Delegates, half of whom were under 30 years of age, represented a wide variety of church denominations and sixteen different nationalities, including the following: Argentine, Britain, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Norway, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, United States and Uruguay.

Preamble to the draft constitution, which will be submitted for approval to the five parent-bodies, reads as follows: "The origin of this Commission is to be found in the effective cooperation which was carried on for many years in the interest of Christian Youth by the World's Alliance of YMCA's, the World's YWCA, the World's Student Christian Federation, and the World Council of Churches. Latterly the World Council of Christian Education took part in this cooperation. Out of their experience in the World Christian Youth Conferences at Amsterdam in 1939 and Oslo in 1947 there developed a need for a more permanent instrument of cooperation which would be a means of manifesting world wide Christian fellowship and would take account of both the common task of the various world organisations and their different characteristics as regards membership, methods of work and their relationship to the Churches. This constitution was finally drawn up at a





first meeting of the World Christian Youth Commission in July 1948, at which the responsibility of confronting the youth of the world with Jesus Christ and His Lordship over all realms of life was clearly recognised."

The constitution provides for a meeting once a year, the selection of representatives from each organisation with the widest possible geographical and confessional representation, on the condition that at least half of them be under thirty. General Secretaries of participating organisations are to be ex-officio members of the Commission. Officers are elected each year. Organisations are to share in secretarial work, and the convener of this secretariat is to be a staff member of the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches.

Officers elected for the coming year are: Chairman: Chu Wen Li (China YMCA) - Vice-Chairmen: Nik Nissiotis (Greece WCC), Barbara Dietz (USA YWCA) and Harry Daniel (India - WSCF).

Among the recommendations made to the sponsoring organisations for further collaboration were the following: sharing of information on world gatherings, publications, relations with other world youth organisations, service to young people in foreign countries, common study on leadership training and other developments, encouragement of local and national collaboration with the full participation of young people.

Actions agreed upon by the Commission grew out of a week's meeting in which the delegates joined in Bible study on the theme "God so loved the world", studied together the situation of youth in the world, and struggled together in discussion on the common responsibility of their Christian movements in the secular world.

The conclusion of the delegates' accounts of their own experience in finding a common task says: "We have been led to see anew that our essential task is to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ so that individuals may accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour, become active, committed church members with a vision of the world Christian community, and acquire a new sense of responsibility in their work and in society." E.P.S. Geneva

#### U.S.S.R.

#### Five Hundred Year Church Festival and Council in Moscow

The Russian Patriarchate has not yet expressed itself on the events in connection with the 500-year Church Festival and the Orthodox Council in Moscow. But the Moscow newspapers and the Moscow radio have given different reports concerning them.

The "Pravda", which recently, for the first time since the war, published a leading article on the problem of religion from the point of view of Communist ideology (see E.P.S. No. 28) gave in its edition of July 8, the names of the foreign guests and participants who arrived in Moscow. The "Isvestia" also reported that the foreign church dignitaries were welcomed on their arrival at the airport and at the different stations of Moscow by leading personalities of the Russian Patriarchate and the Soviet Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church. Furthermore, the "Isvestia" published a declaration made by the







Roumanian Patriarch, Justinian, on his arrival in Moscow. The chief of the Orthodox Church in Roumania "brought to the leaders of the friendly nations of the Soviet Union an expression of love and sincere veneration from the Roumanian people". The Patriarch also gave the prayerful blessing to the whole Russian Orthodox people on behalf of the Roumanian Orthodox people.

No full text of the resolutions of the Congress has as yet become available, and all information received comes from short extracts of these resolutions.

On July 23, Moscow Radio summarised a resolution of the church conference at which the participants (not all the foreign guests took part in the conference) took a positive stand against the attitude of the Vatican in world politics. The Vatican is charged with playing an active role in inciting a new war. It is characterised as a centre of international intrigues against the Slav nations and as a centre of international fascism. But a difference is made between the Roman Catholic Church leadership and the rank and file of Catholics.

According to the Moscow Radio, the resolution takes a stand against participation in the Assembly of the World Council of Churches which will be held in Amsterdam, August 22 to September 4, because the aims of the ecumenical movement which backs the World Council, are mainly "political and anti-democratic". A special appeal addressed to world Christianity calls on Christians everywhere "to fight for peace and against the war-mongers".

The resolutions were reported to be signed among others by Patriarch Alexeij, head of the Church in Russia, the Patriarchs of Georgia, Serbia and Roumania, the Metropolitan of Bulgaria, the representative of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, the representative of the Russian Church in Ethiopia, and the delegates of the Orthodox Church in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Another resolution, which so far has not been made public, deals with the relations between Orthodoxy and the Anglican Communion. E.P.S. Geneva

Statement of the General Secretariat of the World Council  
of Churches

In answer to questions addressed to it from various quarters the General Secretariat of the World Council of Churches has issued the following statement:

"No communications have been received from the meeting in Moscow, in which a number of Orthodox Churches are participating. Information has been limited to newspaper reports.

"There has been considerable correspondence between the Moscow Patriarchate and the World Council of Churches concerning the participation of the Church of Russia in the Amsterdam Assembly. This correspondence was carried in a most fraternal tone and did not deal with political questions. Furthermore there was nothing in this correspondence to indicate that the Churches participating in the Moscow Conference would make such a surprising judgment about the ecumenical movement, as has been reported by the Press.



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"It may be useful to underline once again that the World Council is a purely ecclesiastical body, that its work and witness is exclusively based on Christian truth and Christian motives and that it refuses to be exploited for any political purposes. The concern of the Council for true democracy can be clearly illustrated by its strong stand and ceaseless activity in connection with the drawing up of the United Nations International Bill of Human Rights." E.P.S. Geneva

### U.S.S.R.

### The Journal of the Patriarchate and Western Theology

No. 3, 1948, of the Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate contains an article by the late Professor of Orthodox Theology, W.W. Tchetyrkin, who died recently, on the Books of the New Testament according to church tradition of previous times and the more recent Bible criticisms. The article is a speech which Tchetyrkin delivered in October 1947, at the Theological Academy in Leningrad. Professor Tchetyrkin who was a pupil of the well known Russian theologian N.N. Gloubokowsky, began his scientific studies at the theological Academy and the University of Petrograd in 1917.

Professor Tchetyrkin, after having given a picture of the church tradition concerning the Books of the New Testament in previous centuries, quotes some of the German-speaking theologians of the so-called Tübingen and Marburg tradition in Germany. Among others he quotes Prof. Bauer's "Critical Studies of the Canonical Evangelical Books"; Prof. A. Hilgenfeld's "Historical and Critical Introduction to the New Testament", Prof. O. Pfleiderer's Book on "Early Christianity, its Writing and Teachings", as well as Prof. A. Jülicher's "Introduction to the New Testament" mainly works from the end of the 19th century.

The results of the study work of the New Testament and the names of those who carried it through in the Protestant Churches of Europe and the United States since World War I are not taken into consideration by Prof. Tchetyrkin. They will have to be dealt with by the future theologians of the Russian Orthodox Church in the U.S.S.R., when the younger generation becomes familiar with this literature.

E.P.S. Geneva

### GERMANY

### Bible Printing in the Russian Zone

The first edition of New Testaments printed in the Russian Zone is expected to leave the press at the end of August. This edition of 300,000 Testaments is being printed in Leipzig for the Evangelische Verlagsanstalt in Berlin (the only Protestant publishing house recognised by the Russian authorities) and will be distributed by the Berlin Bible Society. The paper for the edition was given by the American Bible Society and the moulds have been lent by the Beatenberg Bible School. A further edition of 300,000 pocket Bibles is also to be printed in the Russian Zone on paper given by the Swedish Bible Society and from moulds lent by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

E.P.S. Geneva

### "The Lutheran World Review"

The Lutheran World Federation, according to a decision taken last year at Lund, Sweden, has launched a theological quarterly in both German and English editions, entitled "The Lutheran World Review". Its purpose is to provide a







medium for the expression and discussion of convictions and concerns which are common to Lutherans throughout the world and to enable Lutherans everywhere to participate together in efforts at constructive thought and action.

The editor is Prof. Th.G. Tappert, Philadelphia. The first issue contains contributions from Prof. Nygren, of Lund, Prof. W. Trillhaas, of Göttingen, Prof. T.A. Kantonen, of Springfield, Ohio, Bishop Berggrav, of Oslo, and Prof. P.J. Hoh, of Philadelphia.

Dr S.C. Michelfelder, Executive Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation and managing editor of the new review, in his word of introduction stresses that in the review "The Lutheran Church may learn to know herself, and those outside the Lutheran Church may learn to know us as we truly are... The Lutheran Churches themselves are not acquainted with other Lutheran Churches of the world. This magazine should be a beginning toward ending our own provincialism in our own country or church body and toward ending our isolationism with respect to the accomplishments and problems of other Churches." E.P.S. Geneva

#### PAKISTAN

#### Christians in the New Situation

The problem of the Christian populations in the Pakistan Dominion is a problem within a larger problem. The exchange of populations touched the two main communities: the Muslims and the Hindus. But the Christians, by and large, had to stay where they were, for lack of <sup>an</sup> alternate programme. "The story of their sufferings", writes "The Guardian" (Madras, June 17, 1948), "grim and gruelling sometimes, was done with an amount of circumspection and restraint that will do credit to any community placed in similar circumstances".

According to Prof. Bhatti of the National Christian Council, of the more than four hundred thousand Christians in Pakistan (West) about two hundred fifty thousand are immediately affected by displacement from employment on land owned mainly by the Sikhs or the Hindus of pre-partition days. The refugee settlers who are now given smaller allotments of land do not need hired labour and consequently the large numbers of Christians for whom this was the mainstay are rendered helpless. A United Board of the representatives of the Churches and Missions in the area is at work, and to the efforts of this and other interested bodies is added the generosity of the Church World Service of America.

The Venerable Archdeacon L.H. Woolmer published an appeal on behalf of the many hundreds of destitute children whose safety seems to be of the most urgent nature. In normal times an appeal such as this could easily be highlighted and broadcast and help pooled at short notice. But in the present instance the main difficulty seems to be the anxiety on the part of both the sufferers and their benefactors to avoid what may easily be construed as a minority community grievance amidst what is virtually a national disaster.

The Churches and Missions who for most part of the pre-partition days had circumscribed their activities to ones of their own fold will have to undergo a discipline in common thinking and sharing of burdens. "In recent years there has been much 'ecumenical discussion' which, we believe, has in some measure enlarged the vision of the average churchgoer... But ecumenism will remain an idea







without legs if there is no corresponding feeling of 'belongingness' in matters of practical concern. Not until the suffering of a member affects poignantly the whole body, so that every other member reacts to it quickly and generously to heal the wrong, can the Indian Church develop the 'ecumenicity' or feeling of the 'Una Sancta' much discussed and little practised." E.P.S. Geneva

## CHINA

### Forward Movement Conferences

Twenty-eight delegates from ten provinces of China and 23 lecturers or staff specialists of the National Christian Council of China, held a two weeks' Forward Movement Leaders' Conference in Nanking. The aim of the conference was "to work out plans for intensifying the Church's Forward Movement throughout China.

Some of the topics discussed were "Forward Movement Objectives", "Practical Methods of Evangelism", "What Shall the Church do about the Family?", "The Church's Programme for Children", "The Forward Movement and the Rural Church", "Church and Hospital Relations", and "The Church and Industry".

As a follow-up of this national conference, there will be six regional conferences during the next two months at Swatow, Peiping, Canton, Kuling, Chengtu and Ningpo. More than a thousand Christian workers will attend these conferences. E.P.S. Geneva

## GERMANY

### Message of the Evangelical Church: "Behold, the Man!"

The Evangelical Church in Germany, whose representatives met at Eisenach (see E.P.S. No. 29), calls men today to take up the Cross of Christ. Its message bears the title "Behold, the Man!"

"Behold the despised and tortured, humiliated and suffering man to whom human rights are denied! Behold the bleeding face of the man who wears the crown of thorns! Behold the Victim of the curse of the inhumanity and godlessness of our world! Behold the man who hangs forsaken on the Cross.

"His Name is Jesus Christ. In Him God becomes man and our brother. He alone is the Saviour of the lost world. Behold the man for whose sake He shed His precious blood and whom He calls His brother. Behold the man whom God judges and whom God forgives. Behold the least of his brethren as the child of God, created in God's image and redeemed by God's mercy.

"For His sake raise to a new level the dignity of man, which has been trampled down and shamed. Cease sacrificing men to the idols of power and money. For Christ's sake, cease humiliating men for your own purposes. See him first of all as the child of God, to whatever race, nation, class or party he may belong.

"Have pity on his misery, his distress and his guilt. Do not rob and deceive him. Do not plunder his possessions. Have pity on the refugee, the homeless, the prisoner, and on all who are deprived of their rights and their freedom, all over the world.







"Give him the rights assured to him by the God of justice. Give him the liberty, without which he cannot be a man. Give him bread, which is granted to him by the goodness of God. Give him the opportunity to work, without which he is destroyed in body and soul.

"Do not separate him from the people to whom he belongs - as a member of his family and of his nation. Cease to mete out retribution and judgment, hatred and revenge. Do not soil your hands afresh with human blood, your brothers' blood. Stamp out the spark of war, before it becomes a new world conflagration. Root out every idea that war could be your saviour. Seek together for peace in the God, Who is the God of peace.

"Be men who praise God and who may rejoice in His mercy. Be men who venture to hope again. We tell you that man still has a great future before him, which will be revealed when our Brother and Saviour appears again in His glory. For the sake of this future we call you all to behold the man!" E.P.S.Geneva

#### GERMANY

#### A Protestant Bishop Addresses some Questions to Pope Pius XII

The refusal of the Vatican to take part in the ecumenical movement is the basis of a declaration made by Bishop Wurm, President of the Evangelical Church Council in Germany, at the Eisenach Assembly. In this declaration Bishop Wurm vindicates the ecumenical movement, and the following report has reached us from the Evangelical Press Service of Bethel-Bielefeld (July 20, 1948).

It was a promising sign, declared Bishop Wurm, that among non-Roman Catholic people in every country the ecumenical movement had aroused a feeling of common responsibility, which had never existed before. It was therefore all the more painful to Protestants if the Holy Office forbade Catholics to participate in ecumenical services with Protestants, and in religious discussions. In saying this Bishop Wurm was not making a protest, but was speaking from a sense of ecumenical responsibility, emphasising the common heritage of all Christians. He addressed Pope Pius XII personally as follows:

"How great must be the burden of tradition which encumbers the papacy, if so far-sighted and deep-thinking an occupant of the Throne of Peter as the present Pope can consent to such a decree". Bishop Wurm continued that one wondered whether this was a sign of strength or of weakness. "Does the Roman Church feel so strong that, at a time when everything is striving for unity, it cuts itself off and goes its own way unchecked, with no need for reflection? Or does it feel so weak that it is afraid that contact between its members and members of other Churches will be detrimental to itself?" Bishop Wurm closed by reminding Christians of Luther's significant action in pointing to the Bible as the basis and sole guide for the conduct of Protestants. E.P.S.Geneva

ITALY: Ecumenical Service in Naples. The ecumenical movement is growing more and more active in Italy. The spirit of brotherhood which it has created among non-Catholic Christians was recently manifested in Naples. With the object of uniting all the Orthodox and Reformed communities in a service of intercession for the Assembly at Amsterdam, the Rector of the Greek Orthodox Church of SS. Peter and Paul and the Council of Protestant Churches arranged a service, with an interconfessional liturgy in Greek and Italian. E.P.S. Geneva



